

THE WASHINGTON CRITIC.

21ST YEAR--No. 6,374.

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 9, 1889.

PRICE TWO CENTS

IN CONGRESS TO-DAY.

THE SENATE'S CONFIRMATION OF THE NICARAGUAN BILL.

The Columbus Centennial and Permanent Exposition Receive a Little Boost—Friends of the Oklahoma Bill Filibuster in the House.

In the Senate to-day Mr. Sherman, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, reported the Nicaraguan Canal bill, recommending a disagreement with the amendments made by the House and asking for a conference. The President pro tempore appointed Messrs. Sherman, Edmunds and Morgan managers on the part of the Senate.

A favorable report was made on the bill advancing the rank of Engineer George W. Melville one degree and giving him the pay of a chief engineer in recognition of his Arctic services. The bill also provides for medals to be given the members of his crew.

A favorable report was made on the bill authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to investigate the claim of the Alabama and Chesapeake Canal Company against the Government for tolls in the transportation of supplies, etc., and to make an award.

A favorable report was made on the bill granting the difference in pay between a seaman's and carpenter's rank to William C. Nindermann, one of the Jeannette's survivors.

A favorable report was made on the bill authorizing Captain George S. Anderson of the Sixth Cavalry to accept the decoration of the Legion of Honor from the French Republic.

Mr. Jones, Arkansas, by request, introduced a bill granting right of way across the Crow Indian Reservation in Montana to the Big Horn Southern Railway.

Mr. Cameron presented the petition of the Philadelphia Board of Trade, praying for the enactment of laws favoring and forwarding the holding in Washington of the Centennial Exposition of 1892 and the Permanent Exposition.

The Georgetown Barge and Dock Company submitted a report of its condition.

The Tariff bill was then taken up.

Mr. Sherman was heard in debating the Tariff bill, the silk schedule being under consideration.

HOUSE.

Immediately after the offering of the prayer in the House to-day, and before the journal of yesterday's proceedings was read, Mr. Weaver, Iowa, made the point of order that under the rule the journal could not be approved unless a quorum were present, and he demanded a roll-call.

The call showed 190 members present. Mr. Weaver then moved that when the House adjourn it be to meet on Saturday. Tellers were demanded and when the motion was voted down moved to take a recess until 3:30 to-day, tellers again being demanded. The filibustering motions are on the part of the Oklahoma bill, the friends of the measure endeavoring to force the House to set a day for its consideration.

The House spent the afternoon in filibustering.

Mr. Reed caused a laugh in the House to-day by asking Mr. Crisp: "Who is the under dog in the filibustering fight, now going on? Can anything more be done to protect the rights of the minority?"

It will be remembered that Mr. Crisp last week upheld the filibusters against the Reed resolution, and made a strong speech on the "rights of the minority."

Today Mr. Crisp went to call up the contested election case of Snells vs. Elliott, but Mr. Weaver, on the part of the minority, desiring a vote on the Oklahoma bill, filibusters and prevents it.

Transfer of the Signal Service.

At a meeting of the Conference Committee on the Agricultural Appropriation bill this morning the question of transferring the Signal Service from the War Department to the Agricultural Department was considered, and it was favorably decided. The House will consent to the transfer. A move is being made to transfer the Geological Survey from the Interior Department to the Agricultural Department.

A Hearing on the Railroad Question.

The Senate District Committee will give a hearing to the residents of East Washington in regard to the steam railroad question to-morrow afternoon at 2 o'clock in the rooms of the District Committee.

Capitol Notes.

A bill was introduced yesterday by Senator Voorhees authorizing the purchase for the Government of the dressing and shaving brush used by General Washington during his lifetime and described in his will. The bill is now in the National Museum.

The Senate Committee, which was authorized to investigate the conduct of the office of Supervising Architect of the Treasury, will resume the examination of Architect Fretet to-morrow morning. The examination will be held in the presence of the committee.

The Speaker yesterday laid before the House a letter from the Attorney-General submitting estimates of deficiencies of U. S. Courts for the fiscal year 1889 and prior years. It amounts to the aggregate of \$465,000.

Major William Warner, commander-in-chief of the G. A. R., will appear before the Senate Committee on Friday next to make a statement regarding the proposed details concerning soldiers and sailors to be included in the next census report.

The Secretary of the Treasury sent to the Senate yesterday a letter, replying to the resolution of the Senate asking particulars of the advertisement for bids for the erection of a public building in New York. The Secretary encloses a copy of the advertisement which was published by him. He gives the dimensions of the ground covered by the present buildings, and in regard to the comparative value of that ground and the ground on which it is proposed to erect the new building he says that it has always been understood that in advertising for bids the old dimensions were merely minimum limits.

The Senate Committee on Pensions yesterday had under consideration the bill prohibiting the allowance of fee in any claim for increase of pension on account of the increase of disability for the pension was allowed. General Dudley and several other attorneys appeared before the committee in opposition to the bill. The bill passed the House last week.

Mr. Hoar introduced in the Senate yesterday a bill referring to the Court of Claims the claim of the owners of the brig Tally-Ho for \$58,000. Curiously enough, a man named Palmer lost a watch and chain about this time and when the purchaser of the property tried to pawn it at Burnside's he was arrested by Detective Mattingly. The case was continued in court this morning.

A Light-Fingered Supper.

Albough's Opera House has several suppers, but recent developments would indicate that they are not all perfectly honest. One, at least, whose name can not be ascertained, disposed of a watch and chain to a brother supperer for \$8. Curiously enough, a man named Palmer lost a watch and chain about this time and when the purchaser of the property tried to pawn it at Burnside's he was arrested by Detective Mattingly. The case was continued in court this morning.

A New Trial for Moody.

Judge Montgomery to-day granted a new trial in the case of William Moody, convicted of larceny from the person, in robbing Rebecca Moody.

LATE DEPARTMENT NEWS.

The President to-day commuted the sentence of Lewis Burren of the West District of Arkansas, convicted of murder and sentenced to be hanged on the 25th instant, to ten years' imprisonment.

In the case of William G. Soter of the West District of Arkansas, convicted of murder and sentenced to be hanged on the 25th instant, the President to-day commuted the sentence to imprisonment for life.

The President to-day approved the following bills: An act to authorize the Cairo and Tennessee River Railroad Company to construct bridges across the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers; an act authorizing the construction of a road from Florence, S. C., to the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, Md.; a bill granting a pension to Mary E. Johnston.

The Secretary of the Treasury to-day appointed the following storekeepers and gaugers: Martin McElhenny, Stony Hill, N. C.; William Thomas Lykins, Caney, Morgan County, Ky.; Asbury J. Carter, Louisville, N. C.; Thomas W. Jackson, Morehead, N. C.; and Zachary T. Brown, La Grange, Ill.

Lewis McMullen, United States Appraiser at New York City, was removed yesterday by the President. The removal was made on the suggestion of Secretary Fairchild, who, on the 1st of December, recommended Mr. McMullen to resign, but Mr. McMullen declined to comply with the Secretary's request, and yesterday McMullen was peremptorily bounced from office.

Among the President's callers to-day were Secretary Whitney, Assistant Secretary Thompson, General John J. Jenkins, Commissioner Miller, Representatives Townsend, Conger, Wilkinson, Hopkins and O'Neill of Pennsylvania.

Lieutenant G. I. Putnam, Sixteenth Infantry, has been ordered to conduct recruits from New York to the Department of the Plate and then to join his company.

Leave of absence granted Captain Henry P. Perrine, Sixth Cavalry, is extended six months.

Leave of absence for twenty days has been granted Lieutenant-Colonel James M. Moore, deputy quartermaster at last.

Leave of absence granted First Lieutenant James B. Erwin has been extended two months.

The President to-day appointed John W. Parsons a notary public for the District of Columbia.

H. J. Phillips of Iowa has been appointed a special agent in the Land Office.

THE DISTRICT GOVERNMENT.

Private John Painter of the police force was yesterday dismissed by the Commissioners on the charge of intoxication.

Private Middleton was fined \$40 for neglect of duty. J. B. Debnay has been appointed a private on the force and C. W. Mahon has been promoted from class one to class two.

Chief Harris has recommended that William Lusk of No. 6 Engine Company be made assistant foreman of No. 8. Assistant Foreman J. N. Lenman, of No. 2, is recommended for the position of acting foreman of No. 6.

Mr. Solari, of Solari's Hotel, on the Avenue above Willard's, states that he has sold out his place of business to a man from Delmonico's, New York.

A permit to build has been granted to Francis Leonard to erect four brick dwellings, 640 to 622 Delaware avenue southwest, to cost \$2,200.

Mr. Mills Dean has informed the Commissioners that his client, Mr. Solari, has sold out his hotel to Mr. Mehler of Delmonico's. The Commissioners will consider the application of the new proprietor for a barroom license.

E. S. Miller wrote the Commissioners to-day protesting against being put on trial as to his sanity, demanding that his persecutors be indicted.

Manager Mearns of the Western Union Company has asked permission to restore the lines connecting with the new Signal Office.

Regarding the complaints that the street sweepers have swept dirt into the sewer basins on the Avenue, the Commissioners have directed that the practice cease.

There are no funds available for grading and repaving the streets.

Captain Symons has recommended the building of a suburban sewer on Welling Place.

WAS IT A PLOT?

The Mate of the H. S. Slader Thinks that It Was One.

Claudius Jackson, colored, bears a somewhat unenviable record as to his general character, but he won't take a back seat for anybody in the cooking line. Accordingly he applied for a position to investigate the conduct of the office of Supervising Architect of the Treasury, will resume the examination of Architect Fretet to-morrow morning. The examination will be held in the presence of the committee.

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THE WAYS OF A TEXAN.

THEY ARE DISCUSSED IN THE CRIMINAL COURT.

Colonel Tracy Goes on the Stand and Relates the Story of His Difficulty with John B. Tanner—The Colonel's General Reputation.

The trial of Colonel James G. Tracy, charged with assault to kill, was resumed this morning. Yesterday Captain John B. Tanner testified that on July 13 last Tracy came into the office where he conducts banking and brokerage business. Tracy asked Tanner some \$200, and when he came in said: "How about that settlement?"

Tanner replied that that was for him to say.

"Well, I'll settle it now," said Tracy, drawing a pistol and firing.

When he saw the light on the pistol he dodged. The shot passed his head, leaving powder marks on his ear. They clinched, and a second shot was fired during the struggle without effect. He threw Tracy over a chair, and his partner, Harmon, came in and assisted him.

Judge Gates, who appears as Tracy's counsel, asked a number of questions in cross-examination as to the character of the business conducted there. He denied that he was otherwise than a legitimate banking and brokerage business.

He stated that he had been in the War Department under Secretary Belknap. A question as to why he left that office was objected to and overruled.

Tanner's partner, John B. Harmon, testified this morning that during the day a telegram boy had warned him that Tracy was armed. He heard the shot, and when Tanner called he went into the room.

Harmon stated that before they made the contracts with Tracy, produced in court, he had \$147 in his credit. On the night of June 12 he owed \$150, and prior to his visit on the day of the 13th he owed \$150 more. On cross-examination Colonel Yates commenced inquiry as to the character of the business carried on there. When asked by the Court whether he considered this line of investigation relevant Colonel Yates inquired whether it would not affect the credibility of the witness if he should show that this was a bogus firm; that they had a dollar of credit in New York or Philadelphia; that it was a mushroom business in which they attempted to make it appear to the public that they had money to their credit in the market, and it seemed, but that they didn't have anything, but had simply signed open in a place to sell margins when they didn't have anything.

Judge Montgomery held that the jury had nothing to do with the merits of the quarrel and excluded the question.

Mr. O'Dowd, the defense attorney, in the office, testified to the occurrences in the office. He did not hear the lie passed; heard none of the conversation.

Officer J. N. Salkeld testified that when he arrested Tracy the latter said that they had swindled in New York or Philadelphia; that it was a mushroom business in which they attempted to make it appear to the public that they had money to their credit in the market, and it seemed, but that they didn't have anything, but had simply signed open in a place to sell margins when they didn't have anything.

Officer Loftus testified that Tracy asked them not to put the handcuffs on him, and said they had no right to arrest him, as he had done nothing. He corroborated the statement of the previous witness.

Dr. Oscar H. Coumbe testified to removing powder marks from Tanner's ear.

This closed the testimony for the prosecution.

COLONEL TRACY'S GENERAL REPUTATION.

Representative Stewart stated that Tracy's general reputation was good for being an amiable, peaceable man. Tracy had been United States Marshal in the district in which the witness resided.

"Mr. Stewart," said Mr. Shillington, "is the reputation of the average Texan for peace and order good?"

"As good as in any other State in this Union."

"Is that the standard upon which you base your conclusions as to Colonel Tracy's reputation?"

"I don't know that we have any different standard there from what we have here or in any other civilized country."

"You ever hear of any shooting scrapes he had done there?"

"I heard of one."

"That is all."

COLONEL TRACY ON THE STAND.

Colonel Tracy then took the stand. His iron-gray hair was quite long, and in his general appearance there was a reminiscence of Texan picturesqueness. His face showed the lines that come with misfortune.

"What caused the difficulty with Captain Tanner?" asked Judge Yates.

"I had been doing business with Captain Tanner for some two years," said the witness. "Up to then there was not the slightest untoward feeling, that I knew. He had been engaged in a speculation and had lost quite an amount. I had realized on some property I had in Texas. Every dollar that is on those contracts was put up by me—nearly \$800. Relying on the good feeling, when I was called for \$800 on margin, I asked them to telegraph the firm and ask them to carry them for me for two or three days. They sent word that they could not carry them. I lost all my money except what was represented by these contracts. I thought if I could carry it for a few days I might save the remains. Harmon said that he couldn't afford to carry them. Then I told him I knew what I could do. He said, 'What are you going to do?' I went out and attempted to raise the money, but couldn't do it. I returned, and saw Captain Tanner passing into his office. I appealed to him. I had been more friendly with him than the other partner. He said that he couldn't do it. I said, 'Why, Captain, can't you? You don't decide to credit or my money. There is something back of this. You haven't placed my money in New York; you have got it here.'"

"He said," continued Colonel Tracy, "that he had placed it, and I exclaimed, 'You are a liar, and I can prove it.' I saw a hostile demonstration on his face, and drew the revolver. I was bruised from my ankle to my hip. Everything after this was confused. It was all excitement and what I may have said was without thought and without meaning."

The witness explained his possession of his pistol by saying that he had put it in his pocket for the purpose of taking it from his room to his house. He thought that if he pulled it out and showed Tanner that he was armed Tanner would let him alone.

"I suppose they have made out of me," said the witness in response to Judge Yates' question, "at least twelve hundred dollars, I don't complain of that, however."

THE OTHER LITTLE SHOOTING AFFAIR.

Regarding the shooting affair referred to in the examination of Representative Stewart, he said: "I was running a Republican newspaper and the bitterness

was so great that, if a man was not ready to fight, he would run him out of the country. There was another editor of a Democratic paper who took pains to reflect on me. We were constantly cross-firing and the result was a conflict that resulted in no disaster to either."

SENATOR SHERMAN'S BILL.

How He Proposes to Have the Representative Elective.

Senator Sherman has introduced an elaborate bill for the reconstruction of the system of elections for Members of the House of Representatives. The bill is very long, and is made up of detail concerning the form of oaths to be taken, etc. It provides that the President shall appoint five persons in each State board canvassers and three persons of any district an electoral board, for that district, their terms to be during good behavior. Each board is to have a president and a secretary. The electoral board is to appoint a registrar for each precinct or election district, to hold office for six years.

The Electoral Board is to have the power to fill vacancies and remove for cause, if necessary, to increase the number of precincts and to appoint registrars therefor. The Electoral Board of each district is to appoint three judges of election, one of whom shall be a clerk of the district, and one shall be a judge of all Federal elections. At the time of the appointment of the judges, the Electoral Board is to select three of the persons so appointed to act as a Committee of Elections in and for each county or corresponding political division in the district, whose duty it shall be to meet on the third day after the election, open the returns and canvass the votes. This committee is to have the power to fill vacancies in the boards of Commissioners. The Electoral Board is to organize immediately after its appointment and it is to meet in May and any time thereafter on call of any member of the board.

Immediately after qualifying for his office, each registrar is to announce through the medium of printed handbills the place and time of registration. Any persons offering to register and being refused permission, may make an appeal to the judges of election and any claims of fraud or irregularity to be signed by one who comes to the polls. If the challenged person is registered, appeal is to be had to the County Board and its decision is to be final.

The registrars are to have the power of United States marshals, and are to make five qualified voters fifteen days previous to the regular days of registration to post a notice at not less than three places, including the voting place, of the names of persons allowed to be properly on the registration book. The notice is to be signed by the five voters and testimony is to be heard by the Board of Canvassers, who shall determine whether or not they are improperly registered.

Notice of a special election is to be given to the Electoral Board twenty days prior to the day of election, and the board is to forward five printed notices each to the registrars, who shall post them, but failure to carry out this provision shall not invalidate the election if it was not carried out by fraud.

The Electoral Board is to meet not later than ten days after each election day to recount the votes.

The remainder of the bill is devoted to details concerning the method of casting votes.

Mr. Sherman in presenting the bill said that it had been prepared by a gentleman familiar with the subject, who did not care to have his name made public. Many of the provisions of the bill were new, and he thought it was calculated to insure perfectly fair elections.

THE TUNNEL FRAUDS.

The Court of Inquiry Hear the Testimony of an Expert Sounder.

The Court of Inquiry, appointed to investigate the aqueduct scandal, met this morning at 10:30 o'clock in room 51, north corridor of the War Department. The court was called to order by General Ruger, and Mr. A. J. Sparrow, the expert sounder, was sworn and placed on the witness stand.

Mr. Sparrow is a man of about 50 years of age, with head of very white hair and gray whiskers; a pair of gold-rimmed spectacles resting on his sharp-pointed nose gave him a distinguished look. He was attired in a suit of black cloth.

He read his testimony from closely written copy. According to his examination of the Champlain avenue shaft, east and west, the masonry over the key was anything but good. Holes were cut where the sounder indicated a cavity, and all through the tunnel, a short distance apart, cavities were discovered of various sizes. In most places Mr. Sparrow went into the cavities and traced them for a number of feet.

"The description of the cavities was minute and showed that the workmen who testified about the bad masonry and loose packing knew what they were talking about. Nearly all the soundings made indicated cavities which were revealed when the key of the arch was cut."

The testimony of Mr. Sparrow, in substance, substantiates the statements made by previous witnesses. It appears that almost the entire work on the tunnel is good, but a portion of it is to be done over again. If the testimony of the Congressional experts agree with Mr. Sparrow there is a slight possibility that Congress may order the abandonment of the tunnel and provide for a surface conduit.

Real Estate Transfers.

E. Burk to F. Vesper, \$1,000, sublot 3, square 716.

Maria Stormstedt to R. S. Brown, \$1,092.91, lot 3, block 11, Takoma Park.

R. P. Davis to H. A. Gill, \$725, lots 23 and 24, block 20, Brooklyn.

W. C. Johnson to Della Murphy, \$2,400, sublot 60, square 636.

Leaher & Pairo, trustees, to W. R. Frisbee, \$48,000, lots 8 and 9, block 24, Brooklyn.

W. L. Watson to John E. Mills, \$1,350, part sublot 64, square 502.

J. H. Burroughs to Isaac Elzberg, \$800, undivided 1.6 lot 15, square 112.

George Truett to E. E. Clark, \$5,770.70, lot 6, square 5, and lot 7, square 5, Kensington.

Eugene Carnal to John W. Phillips, \$25,000, lots 171-182, square 44.

Marriage Licenses.

Joseph Brown and Emma A. Piper; William Donaldson, Philadelphia, and A. B. Burgin, Germantown, Pa.; C. V. Harvey and J. Lane; Willie T. Walker and Bessie S. Pringle; Robert M. Graham and Alice A. Henderson, Alexandria, Va.; William S. Hull, Fort Myers, Va., and Mary J. Murree, Alexandria, Va.; Oscar C. Nalls and Mildred R. Minor; Harry S. Moore, City, and Celia Smith, State, Ohio; William Jackson and Mary Taylor; John W. Harvey and Bertha Kendrick.

A Chase After Thieving Boys.

Three colored boys attempted last night to break open a showcase standing in front of J. D. Free's store, in Market Space, when they were chased by Officer Smith. The officer gave chase to the offenders, and they captured William Johnson, who was given sixty days in the Police Court this morning.

THE SMITHSONIAN.

THE REGENTS MEET AND HEAR THE ANNUAL REPORT.

Interesting Facts and Figures Concerning the Administration of Its Affairs—The Proposed Addition.

The Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution met in special session this morning to hear the annual report of Samuel P. Langley, the secretary.

As is customary, the executive committee, consisting of James G. Welling, Henry Coppee and M. C. Meigs, made their annual recommendations, after which the report proper was read.

It refers feelingly to the lives and published services of the late Chief Justice and of Professors Henry and Baird, and then argues for favorable consideration of the financial needs of the institution by Congress.

The following financial summary shows the present condition:

Request of Smithsonian..... \$15,100.00
Legacy by Smithson..... 20,200.00
Savings of income..... 108,320.37
Request of James Hamilton..... 1,000.00
Request of Simon Israel..... 500.00
From sale of bonds..... 51,300.00
Total Smithsonian Fund in treasury bearing 6 percent interest..... \$270,000.00

At the beginning of the fiscal year the balance on hand of the income of the fund was \$1,423.14; the semi-annual interest was \$42,180. To this was added from other sources \$752.89, making a total amount for carrying on the operations of the institution of \$44,556.03; total expenditures for the year, \$39,546.77; balance on hand July 1, 1888, \$4,809.26.

The disbursements of the Smithsonian Association, authorized by Congress, were as follows:

For International Exchanges..... \$12,000
For Ethnological Researches..... 40,000
For Preservation of Collections..... 115,000
For Furniture and Fixtures..... 40,000
For Heating and Lighting..... 12,000

The necessity of greatly increased appropriations for the proper conduct of the interests committed by Congress to the care of the institution is forcibly set forth.

The estimates prepared to be submitted for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1889, are as follows:

International Exchanges..... \$27,500
Ethnological Researches..... 50,000
Preservation of collections..... 100,000
Furniture and fixtures..... 40,000
Heating and lighting..... 12,000
Total..... \$279,500

Under the head of "Researches" the history of the plan to secure an astronomical observatory and laboratory is given. Funds have been promised for the purpose by friends of the institution, and a site will soon be selected. Important investigations are in progress at the hands of the curators in every department of the museum.

Under the head of "Explorations" the work of Mr. Romyon Hitchcock, one of the curators, who has been two years in Japan exploring the Japanese Archipelago, is described. Two explorers accompanied the Fish Commission schooner Albatross on her trip to the Gulf of St. Lawrence to explore the islands there and to look for the remains of the Great Auk, and were successful in their work. Mr. Charles N. Townsend explored Central America and Ensign Niblack explored the coast of Alaska for minerals.

In dealing with the library, the secretary deprecates the condition of the 350,000 volumes now deposited in the Capitol and other places and suggests that in the new building a hall worthy of this magnificent collection of a quarter of a million volumes should be exclusively devoted to it under the name of the "Smithsonian Halls." The total number of accessions to the library for 1888 was 19,948 volumes, a large increase over the previous year.

Of "employees" the report says: "Few changes have occurred in the clerical force. Owing to the independence of the Smithsonian Institution of those alterations which take place with changes of administration in Government departments, the tenure of office of its employees is justly regarded as more secure than in other public establishments; and acceptable persons are commonly found willing to take employment under the Regents on lower terms than the same nominal service is elsewhere paid for by the Government. At the same time, with this fixity of tenure and permanence of position, closer and perhaps kinder relations are found to arise than exist elsewhere in the midst of frequent changes."

The United States National Museum, a ward of the institution, is next in order. The sanitary condition of the present building is poor, and many repairs are to be made; also the erection of a new building is to take place. The present building is crowded in all departments. The amount of space assigned to the collection of mammals is about 6,500 feet, and when the work of the taxidermists is now in hand, is finished, it will require double the space and so it is with all other departments. The number of entries in the department for the year is 25,415. The number of visitors during the year was 249,095, and to the Smithsonian Institution, 163,442.

A lengthy review of the work of the Bureau of Neurology and Ethnology shows these branches to be in a flourishing condition. A copious review of the work